

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1, amend Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11 and add Claims 12 and 13 as follows:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~,
further comprising a mask pattern generation means for outputting a mask pattern for masking a region not to be processed in said image; and
wherein said key signal output means outputs a key signal to set said extraction conditions for said image based on said mask pattern in addition to said luminance extraction conditions and/or chroma extraction conditions.

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3. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~,
further comprising an image conversion setting and processing means for selecting and setting a type of image conversion to be performed on the image and making the image conversion means perform the selected and set image conversion on said image; and
wherein the selection and setting of the type of image conversion in said image conversion setting and processing means and the setting of said luminance extraction conditions and/or chroma extraction conditions are freely and independently performed.

4. (Original) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 3,

further comprising a mask pattern generation means for outputting a mask pattern to mask a region not to be processed in said image; and wherein

said key signal output means outputs a key signal for setting said extraction conditions for said image based on said mask pattern in addition to said luminance extraction conditions and/or chroma extraction conditions; and

the setting and adjustment of the mask pattern generated by said mask pattern generation means, the selection and setting of the type of image conversion in said image conversion setting and processing means, and the setting of said luminance extraction conditions and/or chroma extraction conditions are freely and independently performed.

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5. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, further comprising a wave-filtering and shaping means for filtering and shaping the output signal of said extraction condition setting means.

6. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said image conversion means reduces the number of gradients of data of said image.

7. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said image conversion means divides said image into blocks of uniform density.

8. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said chroma extraction conditions are extraction conditions based on a luminance signal and color difference signal of said image.

9. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said chroma extraction conditions are decided for a two-dimensional region of a color difference value defined by a color difference signal of blue and luminance and a color difference signal of red and luminance of said image.

10. (Original) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said chroma extraction conditions are decided for a three-dimensional region of a color difference value and a luminance value defined by a color difference of a two-dimensional region of said color difference signal and a luminance value at a predetermined position in said two-dimensional region.

11. (Currently Amended) A special effect image generation apparatus as set forth in claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said extraction condition setting means extracts an image based on a NAM output of said luminance extraction conditions and/or said chroma extraction conditions.

12. (New) A special effect image generation apparatus for processing an image signal to generate a special effect, comprising:

image conversion means for performing predetermined image conversion, utilizing special effects, to an input image signal, thereby providing a converted image signal;

extraction condition setting means for setting luminance and/or chrominance
extraction conditions to be applied to the converted image signal, said extraction conditions
being selected by an operator;

key signal output means for generating and outputting a key signal according to
the set extraction conditions; and

a mixing circuit for processing a selected portion of said converted image signal
in accordance with said key signal.

13. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said extraction condition setting
means further includes extraction means for extracting a plurality of luminance and/or
chrominance conditions present in said image signal for selection by the operator.
